



Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

coyote

Canis latrans

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae

Features

The coyote is 39 to 54 inches long, including an 11- to 16-inch tail and weighs 20 to 30 pounds. The color of the back is variable but is usually gray or reddish-gray with some black in the middle. The belly is a creamy gray color. The pointed ears are reddish on the back. The fluffy tail sometimes has a black tip.

Natural History

The coyote lives in woodlands, brushy draws, and stream and river valley corridors. It eats mice, rabbits, fruits, and carrion. It makes "yip-yap" sounds. Mating occurs in February and young are born in April. The same pair may mate together for more than one year. Litter size varies, but six or seven young typically are born to a female. Young are born and reared in a burrow or den. The male brings food to the female and pups. When the young are able to eat solid food (about six weeks after birth), the adults may regurgitate partially digested food for them.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native